

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Project Mausam
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Project Mausam along with the details of the countries with which the Government is trying to revive historic maritime cultural and economic ties under this project;
- (b) whether the Government is implementing an action plan for achieving a World Heritage Transnational nomination for 'Indian Ocean Maritime Routes';
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the status of its implementation; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilised in this project during 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *201 FOR 01.8.2016 REGARDING PROJECT MAUSAM.

(a) Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies. This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean – extending from East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Subcontinent and Sri Lanka to the Southeast Asian archipelago. It also aims to promote research on themes related to the study of Maritime Routes through international scientific seminars and meetings and by adopting a multidisciplinary approach. The project encourages the production of specialized works, as well as publications for the general public with an attempt at promoting a broader understanding of the concept of a common heritage and multiple identities. Main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The list of countries with which the Government is trying to revive historic maritime cultural and economic ties under this project is given in Annexure I.

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is mandated with the task of collecting the data and research inputs whereas the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is mandated to develop implementation strategy in collaboration with various identified state parties. In this regard, IGNCA has organised various lectures of well known academicians and an exhibition (details given in Annexure II). ASI organised a National Conference at Kochi in November 2014, a one day workshop on Project Mausam at Mumbai in February 2016 as part of Make in India scheme. Director (World Heritage) visited Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam to discuss the Project with representatives of these countries.

(d) There was no specific allocation of funds for Project Mausam during Financial Year 2014-15 and 2015-16, SFC approved a fund allocation of Rs. 78,225,975 from the Budgetary allocation for World Heritage Matters. An amount of apx. Rs. 10,00,000 was incurred during 2014-15 and an amount of apx. Rs. 6,96,000 was utilised during 2015-16 on Project Mausam.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 FOR 01.08.2016.

List of 39 Indian Ocean countries identified under Project Mausam:

- 1 Bahrain
- 2 Bangladesh
- 3 Cambodia
- 4 China
- 5 Comoros
- 6 Egypt
- 7 Eritrea
- 8 Réunion, French Department
- 9 Indonesia
- 10 Iraq
- 11 Iran (Islamic Republic)
- 12 Jordan
- 13 Kuwait
- 14 Kenya
- 15 Lebanon
- 16 Madagascar
- 17 Malaysia
- 18 Maldives
- 19 Mauritius
- 20 Mozambique
- 21 Myanmar
- 22 Oman
- 23 Pakistan
- 24 Philippines
- 25 Qatar
- 26 Singapore
- 27 Sri Lanka
- 28 Saudi Arabia
- 29 Seychelles
- 30 Somalia
- 31 South Africa
- 32 Sudan
- 33 Syrian Arab Republic
- 34 United Republic of Tanzania
- 35 Thailand
- 36 Turkey
- 37 United Arab Emirates
- 38 Viet Nam
- 39 Yemen

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 FOR 01.08.2016

Programmes under Project Mausam by IGNC up to date:

• Lecture on 'Impact of Bharat on Business of Countries around Hind Mahasagar' by Shri Sandeep Singh

• Lecture on 'Sailing the Indian Ocean: The Seafarers of Kachchh' by Dr. Chhaya Goswami

• Lecture on 'Cunninghams Lost Treasures' by Dr. Sanjay Garg

• Lecture on 'Trading in Stories' by Ms. Sumedha Verma Ojha

• Lecture on 'Role of Sea Level Fluctuations in Shaping the Destiny of Ancient Towns along the Indian Coastline' by Dr. Rajiv Nigam

• Lecture on 'In Pursuit of the Parsis: The discovery and excavations at the Early Medieval entrepôt of Sanjan' by Dr. Kurush F. Dalal

• Lecture on 'Climate Change and the Oceans' by Shri S.W.A. Naqvi

• Lecture on 'Emporia of Indian Ocean Trade, witnessed by the Java Sea Shipwrecks of the 9th and 10th Centuries' by Dr. John Guy

• Lecture on 'Maritime Trade and Cultural Exchanges within the Indian Ocean : India and Sri Lanka' by Dr. Osmund Bopearachchi

• National Conference on "Cultural Landscapes and Maritime Trade Routes of India" at Kochi, Kerala

• Lecture on 'Early Globalisation in the Indian Ocean World' by Prof. Abdulaziz Lodi

â€¢ Conference on 'Africans in India: A Rediscovery'

â€¢ Curatorial Talk on exhibition, 'Africans in India: A Rediscovery' by Dr. Sylvianne A. Diouf.

â€¢ Lecture on 'Stallions of the Indian Ocean: Global Horse Trade in 16th Century Vijayanagara' by Dr. Srinivas Reddy

â€¢ Lecture on 'Great Stupa at Amaravati in coastal Andhra and the Indian Ocean World' by Dr. Akira Shimada

â€¢ Lecture on 'Neglected and Forgotten: Indo-European Defense Architecture in North Konkan (1510 - 1818 A.D.) with special reference to the Vasai and Revdanda Forts' by Shri Mayur Babulal Thakare

â€¢ Lecture on 'Commerce and the Cult of Khizr: The Sacred Geography of Healing in the Indian Ocean World' by Mr. Lauren Minsky.

â€¢ Lecture on 'The Coastal Sites: Possible Port Towns of the Harappan Period in Gujarat' by Dr. Y.S. Rawat.

Traveling Exhibition under Project Mausam
Africans in India: A Rediscovery

The exhibition of photographs retracing the life and achievements of prominent Afro-Indians was organized in collaboration with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. It was first inaugurated at IGNCA on 8th October 2014.

The exhibition later travelled to Science Centre, Surat (24th June to 15th July 2015), Faculty of Fine Arts, The M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara (20th to 25th July 2015), Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (10th August to 8th October 2015), India-Africa Forum Summit, New Delhi (26th to 29th October 2016).

The exhibition is presently hosted at IGNCA-Southern Regional Centre where it was inaugurated on 27th November to 31st March 2016. The exhibition later travelled to SS Art Institute, Vijayapura where it was hosted from 3rd to 30th April 2016. IGNCA-SRC prepared an audio visual film on the exhibition showcased it at different villages of Yellapura, Karnataka from 7th to 12th June 2016.